

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

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TAGS: PORG (CSCE)

SUBJECT: PRESS SUMMARY, WEDNESDAY, JULY 20

FOR CSCE DELEGATION

1. WP-JULY 12, PG. 19-JOSEPH KRAFT ON OP-ED PAGE PORTRAYS THE DANGER OF HARDENING RELATIONS BETWEEN MOSCOW AND WASHINGTON OVER HR AND ARMS CONTROL. HE INSISTS CARTER ADMINISTRATION MUST UNDO FALSE MOVES MADE ON HR AND DISABUSE MOSCOW OF ANY IMPRESSION THAT A TOUGH LINE WILL BRING AMERICAN CONCESSIONS OR A RETREAT FROM PRESENT POLICY STANDS.

2. WP-JULY 13, PG. 17-MEG GREENFIELD ON OP-ED PAGE CITES POSSIBILITY THAT CARTER'S HR POLICY WILL BECOME A KIND OF "NATIONALIZED, POLITICAL TOOL". WHILE BENEFICIAL TO CAUSE OF HR IN THE SHORT RUN, MAY END UP "POLITICIZING" WHAT SHOULD BE AN APOLITICAL, HUMANITARIAN EFFORT. GREENFIELD DECLARES CONCERN FOR HR BEING USED AS A "DOMESTIC-TONIC"
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TO BOLSTER SAGGING AMERICAN CONFIDENCE IN ITS OWN GOOD PURPOSES, AND IMAGINES A DAY NOT FAR OFF WHEN "RISKY RHETORIC" OF HR MAY BECOME UTTERLY DRAINED OF MEANING, ORWELLIAN IN ITS INVERSION OF TRUTH.

3. WP-JULY 14, PG. 22-MICHAEL DOBBS REPORTS FROM BELGRADE A READINESS ON PART OF SOVIET DELEGATES TO ACCEPT AGENDA

GUIDELINES DRAWN UP BY NEUTRAL COUNTRIES FOR FALL CONFERENCE. THE "SUBSTANTIAL CONCESSIONS" ON PART OF SOVIETS COULD LEAD TO A SEARCHING REVIEW OF ITS HR RECORD BY WESTERN NATIONS AND USHERS IN NEW AIR OF OPTIMISM TO BELGRADE TALKS. BUT AMERICAN DELEGATES ARE RELUCTANT TO TALK ABOUT SPECTACULAR BREAKTHROUGH IN LIGHT OF YURI VORONTSOV'S PREVIOUSLY ALTERNATING TACTICS OF CONCILIATORY AND THREATENING REMARKS.

4. STAR-JULY 14, PG 4-REPORT FROM BELGRADE SAYS THE FIVE-WEEK U.S.-USSR DEADLOCK APPEARS TO HAVE BROKEN. WESTERN REPRESENTATIVES SAY BOTH SIDES HAVE AGREED TO PURSUE PROCEDURAL PROPOSAL OFFERED BY THE NINE NON-ALIGNED NATIONS, AND "IT LOOKS LIKE WE HAVE A MAJOR BREAKTHROUGH" ACCORDING TO ONE SOURCE.

5. NYT-JULY 14, PG. 6-REUTER'S REPORT FROM BELGRADE SAYS AGREEMENT ON AGENDA AND PROCEDURES FOR FULL-SCALE FALL MEETING WILL BE REACHED SHORTLY. MAIN STICKING POINT, ACCORDING TO WESTERN DELEGATES, REMAIN THE SOVIET BLOC'S INSISTENCE ON CUTOFF DATE FOR THE MAIN CONFERENCE, THOUGH OPTIMISM PREVAILS FOR "IN THE COURSE OF THE NEXT DAY OR SO AN AGREEMENT...MAY WELL EMERGE."

6. WP-JULY 20, PG 14-MICHAEL DOBBS REPORTS FROM BELGRADE ON TWO STUMBLING BLOCKS TO FINAL AGREEMENT AT THE PRELIMINARY REVIEW MEETING. FIRST IS SOVIET-INSPIRED ATTEMPT TO UNCLASSIFIED

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SET STRICT TIME LIMIT FOR THE MAIN CONFERENCE. ACCORDING TO YULI VORONTSOV, "WITHOUT A TERMINAL DATE, THERE WILL BE NO MEETING IN THE FALL." WESTERN DELEGATES ASSERT SUCH A PROPOSAL IS DESIGNED TO ALLOW SOVIETS TO FILIBUSTER IF HR DEBATE BECOMES TOO DETAILED OR EMBARRASSING, AND THAT ONLY SOLUTION IS FOR SOVIETS TO AGREE TO THE CLEARLY EXPRESSED WILL OF THE MAJORITY. THE OTHER STUMBLING BLOCK IS SOVIET ATTEMPTS TO RESTRICT ROLE OF SPECIALIZED COMMITTEES ON SUCH ISSUES AS HR AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION.

7. NYT-JULY 20, PG. 4-"WORLD NEWS BRIEFS" CITES REUTER'S REPORT THAT WESTERN AND NEUTRAL COUNTRIES REFUSED TO ACCEPT SOVIET INSISTENCE ON FIRM CUTOFF DATE FOR FALL CONFERENCE. VANCE

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